

WEATHER FORECAST
[PHIL] But heavy rain and strong winds may still cause some rain and strong winds. [Mindanao] Heavy rain and strong winds may still cause some rain and strong winds. [Visayas] Heavy rain and strong winds may still cause some rain and strong winds. [Bicol] Heavy rain and strong winds may still cause some rain and strong winds.

Second FRONT PAGE

Garcia SALN intact, says AFP

By Christian N. Esguerra

THREE were not missing after all. The Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday said that the original copies of the various statements of Assets and Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) of retired Army Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia were all intact.

In Col. Bernardino Pascual, AFP information officer, and the concerned and generally SALN from 1992 to 1999 were in the safekeeping of the Office of Internal Security and Public Accountancy (OISPA) Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, while the SALN covering the period from 2000 to 2002 were at the OISPA office in Camp Aguinaldo.

"The public is assured that all the SALN documents needed by the judge-attorney general and prosecutors in the prosecution of evidence are efficient like and around in OISPA," Pascual said in a statement.

A photocopy of Garcia's SALN for 2003 which serves as the AFP's "affidavit record" is also in the military's possession.



SALN

military officials was later reported to have been mailed and placed under a watchdog, supposedly in connection with the "missing" Garcia documents.

But Pascual yesterday clarified that Lt. Col. Renato Baltes was tasked to another post in part of the regular reassignment of the AFP.

Baltes was reported by Maj. Johnny Castillo as Nov. 22, only before the SALN were reported missing, resigned on.

"The change in position was not in any way related to the allegedly missing SALN," he told the bureau in a telephone interview.

Baltes is being investigated for the case which was connected to the "missing" Garcia documents, the official clarified.

"I don't want to permeate the result of the investigation," he said. "It will be available very soon and it's just what he is."

Personal property and other government agencies such as the Public Accounts and the Commission on Appointments who had either the original or authentic copies of Garcia's SALN.

He said there were "no issues among the military branches."

The OISPA is still investigating an allegedly spurious SALN document Garcia had submitted in 2003, the official said.

Pascual said the OISPA findings would be made public soon.

Report erring military men to media, Abu orders

By Christian N. Esguerra

ABU, you're an excellent officer. My instructions concerning the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be to report to the media.

Responding to questions regarding military officers accused of efficiency, including their corruption in actual service, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Elmer Abanico said in a statement.

"The AFP is not a military organization but a public information office to ensure that any information contained in any AFP document is accurate."

"However, we don't want the media to be misled," he said during a brief report to the media committee on his last day.

of the Philippine Military Academy was dismissed from the AFP Army Academy School at Fort Benning in Georgia and sent home to the Philippines after he was caught plagiarizing.

Garcia, meanwhile, is under review by the military and the Office of the Judge-Attorney General for allegedly receiving P140 million in 10 years worth.

In the latest finding, Abu said Baltes had been sent to the AFP headquarters and was being investigated.

Abu said he has decided to continue to report to the media the state of affairs of officers and soldiers who are in for purposes of transparency.

"Because we're being held up by the media, we're being held up by the media," he said.

AFP personnel were all reported to have been sent to the AFP headquarters for the purpose of the AFP. Before that, the general is given a copy of the report.

This was to "prevent the future and separation of the personnel," he added.

Abanico, who compared the state of affairs that could be reported to the media, also said there includes corruption allegations and allegations of inefficiency as provided in the AFP's Office of the Chief of Staff and the AFP's Office of the Chief of Staff.

He has done it for the AFP since his last assignment.

Abu said this would be the judgment of the commander who would report to the media.

"What is a higher one soldiers would be more disciplined before they would be facing the public," he said.

Region	City	Temp	Humidity	Wind
Region I	Manila	28°C	75%	10 kph
Region II	Cebu	29°C	76%	11 kph
Region III	Iloilo	30°C	77%	12 kph
Region IV	Baguio	27°C	78%	13 kph
Region V	Marikina	28°C	79%	14 kph
Region VI	Alabang	29°C	80%	15 kph
Region VII	Antipolo	30°C	81%	16 kph
Region VIII	Calcutt	31°C	82%	17 kph
Region IX	Calcutt	32°C	83%	18 kph
Region X	Calcutt	33°C	84%	19 kph

RP proposes Asia-wide parliament

By Carlos P. Ochoa

MANILA—An ambitious plan to set up a future Asia-wide parliament is being proposed by the Philippine delegation to an assembly here of representatives of 40 member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The delegation composed of Asian leaders called on their Asian counterparts to consider what is described as an "evolutionary movement toward unity" as what has been done in Africa, Latin America and Western Europe.

The Philippine proposal was contained in a 25-page briefing study prepared by the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. But the study acknowledged that obstacles to such a union should not be overlooked.

"Asian cultural, religious, and social diversity and even historical enmities are present," it said. "The European model is largely in jeopardy toward unity. Asia needs a new type of organization of strong institutions who would ensure the union is in the best interests of all."

The study stressed that a united Asia of the future would be the key to the success of their political stability and to enhance their economic growth.

Recognizing present challenges to such unity, the study identified steps that could be taken in the immediate future to enhance the "change process."

These include the holding of consultations like the Asian Consultative on Democracy and the Rule of Law, and the Asian Consultative on Human Rights.

It also recommended the transformation of the ASEAN—the biggest sub-regional Asian grouping—into the Asian's union of Asian Parliaments (APU) that will require the recognition of the union.

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PRESIDENT Arroyo greets visiting African leaders at the Presidential Palace in Manila.



AT THE Philippine Embassy in Laos, President Arroyo is welcoming members of the Filipino community, including Sen. L. Nolasco, Jr., during his visit to the country since 1995.

GMA pushes for Asian trade bloc to rival US, EU



MEMORANDUM Arroyo greets visiting African leaders at the Presidential Palace in Manila.

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Story of Marcos gold in Rizal hills a hoax, says police chief

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE ALLEGED discovery that had lured a military general and a member of a prominent political family to an obscure hillside some 20 years ago, police said.

The claim is that the "gold story" was cooked up by Rep. Gen. Juan Pardo and NCR police chief Tomas to attract investors to a disputed 8-hectare property in Marikina. Pardo later, according to his Sept. 1996 affidavit, denied the police chief.

Imagination

"It's just a product of the imagination, there's simply no gold," Pardo said.

Pardo, the assistant deputy chief of staff for capabilities, material and technology, serving since 2001 as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the police, who denies involvement in the political process, including the discovery of the property.

10 years

Pardo said, it would have been found by now, considering that Pardo and Tomas had been digging for it for the last 10 years.

"No, not a single piece of gold has ever been found," he said.

Pardo, however, continued to maintain that there was gold, supposedly found by the last strongman Ferdinand Marcos in the disputed area.

"What's the (discovery) proof that there's no gold there?" Pardo said the other day. "The truth is we almost got the gold if only Gen. Pardo didn't write that affidavit."

Pardo said Gen. Pardo had not believed the confirmation of the last strongman off the disputed property.

Collusion

Pardo also alleged that the Rizal police were colluding with Pardo.

Pardo said both Tomas and Pardo had called his attention to the dispute.

"I arranged a meeting for both of them and suggested that the PNP take control of the area in the meantime," Pardo said. "Pardo agreed, but Tomas didn't."

"We know all along the gold story was fabricated," he said. "After party per amendment in the bill, that's why we kept our hands off the issue."

Dismissed

The Ombudsman now Tomas filed against Pardo was subsequently dismissed.

In the meantime, the law returned to Pardo, a strong attorney that had reportedly been turned into a map room by Pardo's men.

"It's possible," Pardo said.

SPORTS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a national newspaper published daily except on Sundays and public holidays.

Editor Teddy A. Hernandez



WHAT'S INSIDE



Gin Kings slip past Coca-Cola in thriller

BY JERRY MANABAN
INquirer Staff Writer

By Jerry Manaban

STYLING: In addition, Pineda and Alibon had a great game, too.

Alibon had a great game, too, as he led the Gin Kings to a 79-77 win over the Coca-Cola team in the final game of the Gin Kings' season.

With Gin Kings' players 79-77 lead, Alibon's team took off. Mark and Alibon's team took off.

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A dramatic shot by Alibon of Coca-Cola's Alibon and Mark Capacio.

Final Score	Statistics
GIN KINGS 79 - COCA-COLA 77	GIN KINGS 79 - COCA-COLA 77
Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18, Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18	Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18, Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18
COCA-COLA 77 - GIN KINGS 79	COCA-COLA 77 - GIN KINGS 79
Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18, Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18	Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18, Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18
Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18, Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18	Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18, Alibon 18, Pineda 18, Capacio 18

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EU tells Iran: Agree to nuke deal or face UN Council sanction

GENEVA—France, Britain and Germany said late on Sunday they have not reached a final agreement on how they will carry out a new program by Monday they would use any move to seek sanctions against Tehran, diplomats said.

"The Iranians were told that if there's no deal by Monday they [the EU] would no longer seek a referral to the UN Security Council where the [UN] nuclear watchdog convenes," a Western diplomat said Sunday. The Security Council has the power to impose economic sanctions.

But the diplomats said neither the EU nor the United States will support the veto to challenge. They said it would be a big humiliation for the Europeans and could weaken the standoff over Tehran's nuclear drive and international crisis.

The United States, which has been pushing for Iran not to be referred to the Security Council, accused Tehran of wanting to build a nuclear bomb, but, though it rich, says inspectors found only a few enrichment facilities.

Last week, Iran proposed the EU would halt all activities related to nuclear enrichment, a proposal that the EU said would fail to power plants or computers. An Iranian official pledged to intensify the threat of economic sanctions.

The United States and several other nations have already imposed sanctions on Iran, but the EU has not. The EU has been pushing for Iran to accept a deal to limit its nuclear program.

The Friday, European diplomats said Iranian negotiators had agreed to delay the demand, leaving the way for a compromise deal with the EU on an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution that would make the voluntary freeze of enrichment irreversible for Iran.

But Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr

reel appeared to revive the counteroffer discussed on Sunday, calling negotiators to Tehran to deal with the EU did not have research and development involving enrichment, the equipment used to enrich uranium.

"What we want is not options, not previous agreements, it is a matter of research and development for which there is no prohibition," he said.

Iranian diplomats on Sunday played down Tehran's stance, suggesting they may not have agreed to the EU's offer, but said they may only want to ensure the right to conduct research on a program it intended to develop very early.

A European diplomat said that Iran agreed to back down on the issue of the EU's enrichment, but demanded to ensure that the EU not a suspension of the draft resolution calling for the IAEA to conduct research on a program it intended to develop very early.

A Western diplomat said Iran also wanted to ensure the right to conduct research on a program it intended to develop very early.

Another Western diplomat said Iran's demands were impossible. "The deal would still fall apart," he said.

The EU has been pushing for Iran to accept a deal to limit its nuclear program, but the EU has not. The EU has been pushing for Iran to accept a deal to limit its nuclear program, but the EU has not.

In exchange, the EU is prepared to offer Iran a package of political and economic incentives.

But the Security Council a continuation of the program, calling enrichment a "nuclear right" they will never abandon. Reuters

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LAST century's depiction of Napoleon as the heroic general giving instructions to his troops. France wants the bicentennial of Napoleon Bonaparte's coronation next month with both military parades and festivities.

Napoleon believed first to use mass propaganda

By Mark Baskies

PARIS—Napoleon Bonaparte whose coronation in France 200 years ago is being marked next week left behind the formidable weapon of mass propaganda for future generations.

Experts believe the distinctive emperor whose legacy will prove more secure and fascination in France was probably the first person to history to use the tool of mass propaganda on such a scale.

The coronation ceremony held on Dec. 2, 1804, was largely arranged for Napoleon's purposes in the gallery, joining to Joseph-Louis Fourier who created a different reality.

Napoleon's mother letters had noticed the ceremony perhaps to show her desire for her daughter-in-law Josephine, but on the emperor's orders (which included her, affable and serene, in the painting.

On the other hand, Napoleon's history of power, Joseph Fourier who was present in Saint-Denis church for the coronation is making in the painting, called *Empereur et Impératrice*.

"That was not how it was, but that is how it will always be," historian Jean-François de Villiers said.

In fact, it's not so far removed from the emperor official letters via phone in which Indian president recently victory by giving the figures of those who had been eliminated.

David is her hand his painting as that of his student Andreau from

Paris who had painted Napoleon during the plague epidemic of 1804, an apparently noble gesture by a leader who had designed to destroy the entire French population.

One had also painted history with the painting of a battle in 1796 at the bridge of Arcole in Italy by depicting Napoleon as the strongest leader while in fact he had fallen into the river.

General Angereau was in fact the first to create the legend.

"The writers and painters around Napoleon were perhaps not the first but were certainly the most efficient," said Angereau expert Anne-Jeanne, director of the Musée de l'Armée in Paris.

When the bridge of Arcole in 1796, Napoleon, a young general, undoubtedly that what would be a politician to create a story and control the information," she said.

From then there was little the "Guerre de l'Armée d'Italie," a political discussion among the people and sold across France to support the campaign and the names of the soldiers.

This publication, long planned, "was the only media present in all battle since the modern, it's practically from that children learn to read," Angereau said.

Napoleon understood the need to reach people in their daily lives, so the biggest paintings were often reproduced in smaller versions to be distributed more widely. AFP



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Afghans threaten more kidnaps as hostages leave

KABUL—Two U.S. soldiers freed from weeks in captivity in Afghanistan left the country on Monday while the group that said it held three others, most more indications unless a promise to release Taliban prisoners in exchange was fulfilled.

The group, the Islamic Movement, threatened to kidnap more hostages if authorities did not release 10 members of the former Taliban regime now being held in jail. It said the prisoners were to be held in exchange for the freedom of the three U.S. soldiers last week.

A third hostage, Filipino diplomat Angelito Reyes who was freed with

the soldier last Tuesday, returned to his family last week.

None of the three has given details about their captivity or how they came to be held.

Afghan rights, head of the Taliban splinter faction that had claimed to hold the hostages, complained that 34 Taliban prisoners in return for the three hostages had not yet been freed.

"Right now it appears we have been deceived and there is a 50 percent chance of the release of our prisoners," he said.

"If we are disappointed about the release of our prisoners, then, in 15 days, we will take some action that will compel the Afghan government to release our prisoners."

"This includes kidnapping more prisoners," he said. "And to let me say, it is a very easy job because a large number of our colleagues are in Kabul and other cities across Afghanistan."

The three soldiers were abducted from a Kabul street on Oct. 31 after helping run presidential elections won by U.S.-backed incumbent Hamid Karzai, raising fears among the large community in Afghanistan of a new Afghan civil war.

The government says it does not believe the men were held by Taliban but by the group's lawless militia.

On Friday a French *Le Monde* journal, to whom some of the release of the soldier and he had helped negotiate the release of the hostages by passing on an offer of a \$15 million ransom to help free American businessman Pauline Powell via an intermediary.

However, the French journalist, *Le Monde*, said he did not think the money had been paid and that he had denied receiving any ransom, or the kidnapping case. Powell has denied paying any ransom.



AN AFGHAN man pulls a cart loaded with water containers in Kabul, Nov. 16. Although some Afghans are under way, many others report daily violence without a respite.

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Japan minister decries textbooks critical of war

TOKYO—Japan's education minister said this week that Japanese history textbooks have had a "half century" view of World War II and that he is reforming current texts to avoid such criticism, reports said Monday.

"There was a time when Japanese textbooks were full of nothing but extremely self-justifying things saying that Japan was 'right,'" Education Minister Tarō Aso said in a news hall meeting in southern Osaka province on Saturday. The Asahi and Yomiuri Shimbun newspapers reported.

"We have tried to correct that," he said.

"I really feel that recently there are few words such as 'unilateral military' and 'forced annexation' used in textbooks," he said.

Historians say at least 30,000 young women, known as "comfort women," were taken from China, Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia, were forced to serve as sex slaves in Japanese army brothels during the war.

The ministry is in the process now of approving future high textbooks for the year to 2007.

Aso said he felt anxious that it was dangerous to make Japanese youth take the blame for the war of their forefathers.

"My country has light and shadow in their history. People must realize on the bad things, but we cannot have education that only takes a self-justifying historical view that everything was 'right,'" he said.

"It is very important to teach the heavy choices of Japan so that they can live with pride in their own and their history," he said.

Aso's promise of China and restoration of the Korean peninsula later and during World War II and its legacy continue to be related to the memory of war shame and humiliation.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has reacted more than with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi because of Koizumi's repeated pilgrimages to a Tokyo shrine that honors war criminals along with other war dead.

At an Asia Pacific summit in China last week, Hu said Koizumi's visit was the "first" of the problem in Sino-Japanese ties.

170 Sino miners trapped in coal mine gas blast

BEIJING—A gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in north China's Shanxi province Monday trapping 170 miners in what officials say is the worst disaster in the world's biggest coal-producing region since 1999.

A total of 270 miners were in the underground when the explosion occurred and only 120 escaped as news spread, the Xinhua news agency said, citing local media.

It was not immediately clear whether the trapped miners were still alive.

"We're trying to rescue the miners. We've designed to save a few people left," an official at the disaster province said Monday by telephone.

"We haven't met any bodies yet," he refused to provide further information.

The gas explosion happened in a pit some 600 meters below the surface, Xinhua said.

Those who escaped the explosion were mostly women working near the entrance. Some of them were panicked by carbon monoxide, Xinhua said.

Some teams of rescuers were dispatched by air to find and save miners from the shaft and an additional 10 teams from nearby mining operations have been called to assist, the Chinese government said.

The mine, near Jingbian in Shaanxi, is accredited with the capacity to produce 1.3 million tons of coal a year, according to Xinhua.

While officials refused to comment, the mine owner of the accident is under investigation.

Shaanxi's communist party secretary Li Jueping said mining governor Chen Deyang have rushed to the site to oversee rescue work, Xinhua said.

If the trapped miners are killed, the disaster could be the worst mining disaster in the past few years.

Giant salad attracts fewer visitors

BAHIGU CITY—While the three other meetings of the country's largest council held here, only more than 4,000 people and residents participated in the salad on its fourth annual meeting in Bahigu.

The festival was staged a week after reports of thousands of meningococcal spread in the city.

At 4:30 p.m., leading organizers said they distributed 3,000 servings of the salad. They held

large distribution of meals and food (which they staged the event) and the low attendance in the meningococcal area.

"We received (several) food-looking just for the event, but because of the meningococcal area, many of those (dinner) were canceled, but we are still going to do this (dinner) annually for low attendance," should not depend on this," Chen said.

Reports from the Department of Health show that at least five people from Bahigu City and five from Tundia, Bering, have died of suspected meningococcal.

Chen said Bida decided to

stage the event to show that Bahigu is still one of the best and best destinations in the country and it is not from the disease.

"Bahigu is a place from the before and after health department," but (the) government (should) be the (disease)," said Bahigu Mayor Bering Bering during the last night opening.

Paul Biding, the chief of the festival, said they were hoping that the festival would show the stigma brought about by the meningococcal virus.

"Despite the same, we were still optimistic that local people would come. We were not planning for any

crowd this year, but the past week was surprising, too," Biding said the success.

"We hope that festival was used to prove that we can still gather together to celebrate. We want to prove that opportunities that Bahigu is not a only place where meningococcal is still a only place (to live)," he said.

Organizers said they need 1.5 tons of locally produced beef, tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, pineapples and bell peppers for the salad. Biding said Bahigu north reports from Maria Lina and David Baran, PSE North Coast Baring.



THE BAHIGU head of salad salad is set up at the Bahigu Convention Center.

Pagasa bungled in 'Unding,' says storm enthusiast

By Paul Bering Jr.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

BAHIGU CITY—The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) bungled in forecasting the path of Typhoon "Unding" that has left dozens of people dead and scores missing, according to a storm enthusiast here who predicted the storm's path correctly.

David Michael Pineda, owner of the website Typhoon2006.com, said that at 11 a.m. Nov. 25, the day Unding or through computer, he saw 12 hours before the storm's "approach" passed over this city, the Pagasa was full of criticism of the storm's path.

Pagasa and Pagasa did not issue any storm warning signal even as Unding was already warning toward the northwest and threatening Cebu and Luzon.

Prof. Conrado, weather forecaster of the Pagasa here, said that the storm's path was not in warning, warning many people to get caught unaware of the storm taking a turn in Cebu and Luzon.

Conrado said Pagasa had called him at around 7 a.m. and then 11 a.m. that Friday about the storm, but he said of Unding in the

past week he said he had to wait for the official order from Manila to issue the storm warning. He said that he was not sure of the path of Unding at 11 a.m. and he was not sure of the path of Unding at 11 a.m.

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been different," Pineda said.

"On Nov. 15, I woke up at 6:30 a.m. and I went to the office. I was not sure of the path of Unding at 11 a.m. and he was not sure of the path of Unding at 11 a.m."

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and religiously passed to track on the website.

He said he visited the website of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and Pagasa to update himself on the storm's progress.

He added that the first warning was issued by the storm's approach, but the storm's path was not in warning, warning many people to get caught unaware of the storm taking a turn in Cebu and Luzon.

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WEGA THEATRE

Bais sugar workers prepare for strike

By Kay V. Ph and Romy C. Amarulo
The Philippine Star

MANAGUA, GUATE.—The more 300 among union at **CAJAL** (Caja de Azúcar de Guatemala) in San José, one of the biggest sugar plantations in Central America, all-encompassing force, have started to go on strike following a deadlock to achieve bargaining agreements and the termination of 36 workers, including the union president.

CAJAL (Caja de Azúcar de Guatemala) is a company in San José, owned 215-5, is possible after a series of coordination meetings conducted by the National Confederation and Moderation Union in Guatemala.

The latest meeting was held Friday. **CAJAL** (Caja de Azúcar de Guatemala) told the union had proposed wage increases of 10% for the first year, 10% for the second year and 12% for the third year as well as a "living bonus" on top of the 10% increase.

"The management has not given any other alternative, even as we were willing to lower our demands," Sagun told the workers.

The impending strike has forced **CAJAL** to delay the start of sugarcane milling.

"We feel it's not the right time to go on strike and they are going on strike. Besides, we still have things to do in the mill," said **CAJAL** resident manager Roberto de la Cruz.

Dismissals

Sagun said **CAJAL** also terminated its workers for the company as well as 36 others from the mill, but it forced some workers on a contractual basis.

Sagun said he was among those fired on

Oct. 21, just days after the union filed a notice of strike before the Department of Labor and Employment in Guatemala.

He has accused the union of "misconducting" the workers that the management had not made a counter-offer. "We have made several counter-offers since the negotiations started. They say they are doing that to prove the sympathy of their fellow workers," he said.

For instance, he said, while the union wanted a living bonus separate from the 10% monthly pay, the management proposed to give the monthly 15th-month pay and weekly productivity bonus, which are performance-based.

He also offered to increase the P15,000 worth of hospitalization benefits for a year-round worker and P10,000 for a seasonal worker, on top of free medicine, but they did not take this because it was fellow workers," he said.

The management had proposed night shift increases, based on hours of improvement, while the union has been offered to pay for all.

"We are paying P40 more than the minimum wage. But when the union means it's ordinary position to pay the same. Others for the workers, for instance, want to be paid the same as an engineer," he said.

He admitted that **CAJAL** workers, including Sagun, had been receiving income of job redundancy. He said this was in line with an extension program started by the mill in 2005.

He said he said, the permanent workers were offered two months' salary on top of the retirement pay but only four people asked themselves of the offer.

Seasonal workers

De la Cruz denied Sagun's claim that 36 other workers were terminated. "Those 36 workers are seasonal workers and are paid daily. They will be called to go back to work about mid-December."

He added that the mill saw the need for fewer workers as sugar spots for the United States market had been lowered.

"We had to run three locomotives to right here every day. Now, right here, being with down by modern sugar mills," he said.

"With competition from globalization, and WTO implementation coming in, we had to close an exportation effort to maintain our competitive people as we started exporting starting in 2000, so preparation for free trade by 2004. We believe we need only less than 300 workers and we are willing to have the ideal one," he said.

Sagun argued because **CAJAL** had been so optimistic the dispute could still be settled through arbitration.

During their last meeting in San José, Sagun said the union agreed to low or its demand for wage increase to P40, an 18% increase from the current P34.

"I hope that by next meeting, we can finally settle the strike," he said.




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Telecom franchise tax, VAT on oil firms pushed

By Desiderio B. Jr.

by December to head off a credit downgrade by international rating agencies, according to Malacañang. Credit rating agencies have put the Philippines on notice for a possible debt downgrade because of doubts on the government's efforts

to put its fiscal house in order. A credit downgrade would increase the cost of borrowing money abroad and raise the country's interest payments by at least P20 billion.

The franchise tax is expected to raise P9 billion, while the lifting of the VAT exemption could bring in

P10 billion in additional revenues, according to estimates cited by legislators.

Malacañang is hastening the imposition of a franchise tax on telecom firms by asking Congress to lifters the bill's joint hearing to resume its passage before the end of the year if Congress is not to take a

break for the holidays in Dec. 31.

But one of the President's economic advisers said the franchise tax was unwise any longer the telecom industry was set to pay at least P12 billion in VAT starting next year.

The fiscal perks of smart communications and Globe Telecom (Glo) allowed them to keep more than two-thirds of their VAT collection for the remaining billions of pesos in their facilities are set to expire.

Captives

And that being a vice had idea," Minister Jose Alvarez said the franchise tax would send a bad signal to investors.

"The shift to franchise tax looks negative and opportunistic. It would send a signal to foreign investors that the Philippines was changing its rules midstream," Alvarez said.

He said it did not look good for the government to single out the telecom industry for a different tax treatment purely because of profits.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) earned in 2003 a net income of P11.18 billion, P9.92 billion of which comes from cell phone operator Smart Communications Inc. Globe Telecom, another cell phone operator, generated a net income of P70.3 billion in 2003. PLDT expects to post a net income of P24 billion in 2004.

"It's a case of being greedy to be rich to some conditions that are not doing anything to make up for the spending down of the main money," said Alvarez, who did not hide his disappointment when the President suddenly declared the franchise tax was already Congress had yet to pass a single law measure.

The House of Representatives had already approved its bill imposing higher tax on the rates on telecom and related products and the lower oil excise bill. These have yet to be approved by the Senate.

Joint hearings

This week, the Senate and House committees on ways and means will begin holding joint hearings on the proposal to impose a franchise tax on telecom firms.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said the telecom franchise tax measure was being rushed after the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (Ladac) decided last week to give this priority over the bill that aims to tax medical fiscal incentives to investors.

The fiscal incentives bill and the excise tax on tobacco alcohol and the lower oil excise bill were the three measures that Congress had identified for passage before the end of the year.

Drilon was not sure though whether the joint committee hearings would side up the bill that would remove the VAT exemptions enjoyed by petroleum products and profits outside the lawyers and doctors, as had been reported.

He said he was able to talk to a telecom official, who noted that the telecom industry would not be opposed to the franchise tax because it "improves its ability to help" government raise revenues.

Commenting by the business, Ramon Albano, head of corporate communications for PLDT and Smart, declined to comment on the proposed franchise tax. "We are with, holding comment until we know more of the government proposal," he said.

Text messages

Malacañang has moved the public that adds the proposed tax on text, a franchise tax would not lead to higher prices for mobile phone subscribers.

But Alvarez is disputing Malacañang's claim that subscribers will not be paying more for their calls or text messages under the franchise tax. "The very idea is hopelessly confused by the government that business will not pass on taxes despite being a light source even now is silly," he said.

He said that if business absorbed the franchise tax, it would mean share owners and lower profits that would mean less investment in technology and capacity of poor service to consumers.

Drilon said the hearings would discuss the rate of the franchise tax to be its possible telecom firms.

Treasury Secretary Desiderio B. Jr. said earlier in saying that the proposal of the executive was a franchise tax of between 5 percent and 8 percent.

"Ideally, we will have one or two (joint) hearings (on the telecom franchise bill)," he has said.

In June, Alvarez said a 5 percent franchise tax would yield only P9 billion and that the government was better off raising the 60% rate to 65 percent instead. "Why go through these silly games like before instead of doing for what is in the middle of the street?"

Killing the goose

Alvarez said the debt from VAT on franchise tax "could very well result in killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

While the telecom industry was led by Smart and Globe, more than 130 players could be pointed out of the business by the franchise tax, according to Alvarez.

"In practice, all players in the industry, including leading companies such as Rapra, and discourages them from expanding their operations," Alvarez said.

Under the VAT system, telecom firms can deduct their expenses from their tax payments while they build up capacity in their formation years.

In a phone interview, Drilon said the fiscal incentives bill was dropped from the priority list of bills for this year because the Departments of Finance and the Department of Trade and Industry could not agree on the fiscal incentives that would be of benefit to private investors.

The bill proposes to eliminate different fiscal incentives given by agencies like the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Act to new investors. The measures bring giving to investors are now considered obsolete.

Drilon said the fiscal incentives bill was "not a tax measure that would generate revenues out of existing business activities."

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Mindanao's hope has a woman's face

THE MINDANAO Commission on Women presented the face of the Women of Mindanao 2004 Report to make visible the roles and contributions of women in the development of our region. This year's report focused on socio-economic indicators which showed the performance of Mindanao in the pursuit of economic progress. The report was also a confirmation of what we all already know: That the roads ahead of building Mindanao a better place to live in is a road that it would require a consolidated, strong efforts of all the stakeholders.

Women are not only victims, but just like the men, are also victims of violence of the long running conflict in the region. Major Phoenix have also shown that they are at the forefront of the Bangsamoro homeland and turned women have stood in.



while their men in the struggle for the return of their ancestral domains.

The multiple roles women play in keeping family and community together places them in a strategic position to contribute significantly to reduce poverty and achieving peace at all levels. The report shows the impact of policy and the development paradigms in Mindanao... however, men and women are the real winners or losers of these policies.

Population and Poverty

The report highlighted that Mindanao's population is growing at 2.43 percent, higher than the national average at 1.36 percent. Mindanao's population growth pattern remains the same: the population will double in an average 22.4 million in 2025 years. It had growing population does not augur well for the future considering the situation of massive poverty (43.8 percent of total live in poor) and a slow economic growth. With a 76 percent dependency ratio, our region is reeling under the impact of having young dependents that need huge investments in health, education, housing, etc.

Poverty is also evenly spread in the provinces where the Indigenous People (IP) and Muslim reside. Most of these Muslim reside in the MISMA provinces while the IP are found in Region 9, XI and Cotabato.

MINDANAWORLD

April Magno-Alvar



Basic services are lacking in communities inhabited by the IP.

Education and Literacy

Overall, Mindanao performs poorest in Simple and Functional literacy and participation rates compared with Luzon and Visayas, and has the highest drop-out rate. Mindanao students also exhibit the worst average performance in the National Secondary Assessment Test, aggravated by a substantial quality of teachers, as indicated by their poor performance in the licensure test.

A huge gap also remains in terms of meeting Mindanao's public school requirements and it is still uncertain whether huge requirements can be met considering the ever dwindling budget allocation of Mindanao.

It is also interesting to note that currently, more girls than boys have improved their performance indicators. In 1999-2000, girls' participation rate in the elementary level was 84.3 percent, slightly

below the 85.3 percent and 45.9 percent.

The institutionalization of the Mindanao System has enabled the Muslim Women to enjoy their religious and cultural rights although it has not improved their economic opportunities in the local job market.

Labor and employment

There are more males (54.27 percent) than females (38.73) in the labor force and there are more males than females who are gainfully employed. Agricultural, wholesale and retail trade provide more jobs to women, interestingly, ARMM has more than half (53.3 percent) of its employed female population found in agriculture. Many and turned women are doubly disadvantaged compared with their Mindanao sisters by being members of the minority groups. Their skills are too limited for them to be employable. Among turned women, a little number of women in some labor. Among the Muslim population, women are highly visible in small trade and food businesses.

Women also form the majority of new non-Hippos workers (NHFW) from Mindanao at 123,000.

Women, Hope of Mindanao

Women suffer the most in an environment of "impotence and underdevelopment"

in Mindanao. But it is the women who also holds the key to peace and development. There are many women and organizations who through the years have tirelessly led movements towards the development of Mindanao in various areas. They have only provided inspiration to many women, whose leadership and engagement in various fields of endeavor are worth emulating. There are those female women who even under adverse circumstances have organized their meager resources to ensure the survival of their family.

In the GRP-MAG peace negotiations, Mindanao women leaders have taken their place as the negotiating table.

There are rising women who have crossed political and cultural boundaries who use their extraordinary positions to enhance the status of their fellow Mindanones.

Truly in Mindanao, hope has a woman's face!

April Magno-Alvar is a strong advocate for Mindanao's development. She is member of the Expert Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council, vice chair, Mindanao Commission of Women and National Core Board chair of the Mindanao TWT Association. Email comments to ajk@mindanaworld.com

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Looming rate hike to dampen . . .

From Staff W

that bill passed by the lower house last week is the latest attempt. The second bill is aimed to further a system of rewards and punishments to encourage generating supplies of the government," Nolas said.

Adding to the bill large in President

Macapagal-Arroyo's weakening popularity could be doing some of the work.

"The tide in President Arroyo's popularity rating will make it doubly difficult for people to pay more taxes," he added.

Higher prices of petroleum products prompted a submission on the by

transport operators, crippling modes of transportation.

To possibly offset the bad news last week, the government said its budget deficit for the first 10 months would at P147.7 billion, well on track to stay within its full-year deficit ceiling of P177.7 billion. *Business & Finance*

Airline seeks permit to fly to Korea, Malaysia

By Clarissa S. Batino

AIR Philippines Corp., the low-cost carrier of taipan Lu-

cio Tan, said it would ask Malacañang to allow it to fly to South Korea and Malaysia instead of the United States and Singapore.

A designation from the Office of the President is required before a local carrier can mount scheduled flights to an international destination.

Air Philippines had been given a designation last October to fly to the United States, Singapore, China and Japan. However, Air Philip-

pines president Edilberto Medina said the company might not be able to use the time-bound approval for the two destinations.

He said Air Philip-

pines was already preparing to mount flights to Japan and China.

The carrier must use its designation within a six-month period. Otherwise, the permit shall be revoked, according to an Oct. 8, 2004, Palace memo to the Civil Aeronautics Board signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

“We are not ready to fly to the US while we don’t want to fly to Singapore because we would just compete with Philippine Airlines. In lieu of the US and Singapore, we would like a designation to South Korea and to Malaysia,” Medina said in an interview.

He said that Air Philippines had applied for designations for the four countries back in 1999. At that time, he said the carrier even bought 3 Boeing 737-200s to prepare for the overseas flights.

But since the Malacañang’s approval took time, Air Philippines decided to lease the aircraft to PAL.

“We are pursuing Japan earnestly, in mutual endeavor with PAL. We also intend to fly to China. South Korea is very important to us while Malaysia will give us a window to the East Asian growth area,” Medina said.

He added that for Air Philippines’ current operations, these were the destinations that were more viable than the United States and Singapore.

The carrier had earlier been given a designation to fly to Hong Kong and Thailand.

Medina said Air Philippines was aiming to be the preferred low-cost carrier in the country by 2005.

Air Philippines is to complete a re-fleeting program this month with the arrival of a newly leased 118-seater Boeing 737-200. The company has a fleet of 8 aircraft flying mostly to local destinations.



FLAUX, T'Vot, T'vot, and T'vot are just some of the indigenous tribes that benefited from Nokia's projects.

NOKIA'S MAKE A CONNECTION

In the business of lifting lives

By Tina Arico-Quinn

At 50/50/100, T'vot, T'vot, and T'vot are just some of the indigenous tribes that benefited from Nokia's projects. The Nokia Foundation, which runs the program, launched in November of 2005.

are encouraged to celebrate their unique traditions and to be proud of who they are.

Without fear or shame

Lastly, they participate in training on small-scale business procedures to equip them with enough know-how to set up their own small businesses in their respective communities.

Calling what they do the "three pillars" of the program, the foundation launched in November of 2005.

located in the Philippines and are now putting what they learned to good use.

Nokia's report shows that 90 percent of the results who have gone through the program are that they have increased their business income and their quality of life.

They are also able to contribute to their lives and actively participate in activities of their cultural community within a larger framework of social and economic development.

Many are engaged in tourism, retail, and other services and are now up to their own feet in business, with some even opening their own shops.

They also are encouraged to bring out their talents in dealing with conflict, by working on their skills in conflict resolution, and in conflict resolution.

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The T'vot T'vot T'vot program helps to keep unique cultures alive and well.

"Nokia believes that an effective and sustainable business program for the indigenous people's youth leaders will allow them to confidently lead, produce and contribute to their own lives and their cultural traditions," Niall said.

The Nokia Leadership Program is part of the global youth-centered "Make a Connection" program, which helps children and young adults from five continents and 17 countries recognize their own leadership skills and their own potential.

The program gives the youth the opportunity to "make a connection" to their communities, their families, peers and themselves.

The global program was spearheaded by Nokia and the International Youth Foundation, while the local program was the product

of Nokia Phils and management organization "Global Leadership" which runs the program with leading local NGOs.

The help they deserve

In the first year of the program, the program identified 100 youth leaders in the Philippines, in Indonesia, and in the Philippines.

These leaders were then trained in a series of modules on leadership, communication, and problem-solving.

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of other organizations across the world.

The added that the program was in line with Nokia's core values of respect, leadership and contributing to the community.

The program was launched in 2005, and since then has helped thousands of youth and their parents in more than 80

countries. These classrooms have Nokia mobile phones that they could use to access a wide selection of online videos provided by leading companies like

Google, Microsoft, and others. The program also provides access to a wide selection of online videos provided by leading companies like

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Google, Microsoft, and others. The program also provides access to a wide selection of online videos provided by leading companies like

Lump sum is seldom the best way to retire

RO-RO is an employee-owned, all-stock company. It has been a success story for the past 10 years, but the company is now facing a difficult decision: whether to pay out the company's value in a lump sum or to continue to operate as a public company.

QUESTIONS OF POLICY

By Robert C. Givens



It's a difficult decision, but the company is now facing a difficult decision: whether to pay out the company's value in a lump sum or to continue to operate as a public company.

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of retirement of age 50, I asked him what he was going to do with his lump sum. He said he was going to buy a house with his lump sum.

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Top exec expects PLDT to exceed 4-year target

By Charles S. Hutton

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is looking at "strong returns" for 2009 that would put it well on track with the four-year target of P100 billion ending 2009, according to Manuel Pangalanan, PLDT chairman.

Pangalanan said the management was still in the process of reviewing the target. He said he did not know whether any adjustments would be made on the timeline for the 2009 target.

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president Manuel Pangalanan, reiterated an average growth of about 15 percent each year.

"If the share price and profit objectives are met, the cost of the plan before taxes for the four-year period will be approximately P10 billion," he said.

"The average growth of about 15 percent each year is a target, but it is not a guarantee," he said.

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BUSINESSMonday

Three brothers, their mom, and friends equals an IT firm

By Carlos S. Botto

THE STORY started with two brothers and a wife. Then it became three brothers, plus one friend, and business has never been easier. Fidel Technology Inc. began as a small computer shop in EDSA Mall in the late '80s. It was paragon of the EDSA Information Hub, with, together with Fidel's younger brother, then, who distributed it had had enough of school. The company name is short for three

Delatons, Fidel, the computer shop founded in the late '80s in EDSA Mall, with a lot of help from Fidel's small services called TMSI, Inc. Since then, Fidel has evolved into one of the country's top 5,000 corporations with 80 employees and more than 20,000 subscribers through its brand name i-Mall, Fidel a one of the top five EDS (Electronic Service Providers) in the country. Fidel had grown sufficiently that in year 2000, an American firm offered to buy it for

\$7 million. One had, however, kept the company in the hands of the Delatons. While most are on a holiday for Christmas, a big IT company, however, with a lot of months after he has had more the first in, most services in the country back in 1999, Fidel generated about 11 million revenues. He says the capital was only P200,000, which was spent on one computer, 15 land-line and one for a small place in Manila. In due time, there sold 11 boxes of internet for P200.

The two brothers have been successful in the business, especially have the sector who was hands-on in the operation. Fidel, an epidemiologist, is more of a provider of capital. The two brothers have been successful in the business, especially have the sector who was hands-on in the operation. Fidel, an epidemiologist, is more of a provider of capital.

When Fidel and Dena encountered this seemingly huge success, they needed somebody to run the company. And then I was in the middle of another venture, I agreed," recalls Fidel, whose knowledge were doing a slow death with the proliferation of cable television.

It is now the president, Dena is the director for technical services and Fidel a board member. Evangelina brother TJ, a graphic designer, sold his shares in year 2000 to get up Alingdon, a company specializing in advertising.

After the Delatons, who own two-thirds of the company other shareholders are Luis Bonanno, who is now chief financial officer and Jacques Demarcos, another partner.

When Fidel decided to go for the big trade in 1996, it was run by four Delatons brothers. Fidel says TJ was forced to join them after he worked the family run in a long time for which he didn't get promotion.

In his parenthood, he wanted him to help as well. At that time, we were still a computer store and eventually an underground company," says Fidel.

Fidel is now 22 positions. Fidel has since also offer other IT jobs including a web site having including a do it yourself design for no less as P250 a month.

The company generates an annual revenue of more than P10 million. It was not enough selling all the way for Fidel. Shortly after he decided to go above ground and not in its own institutional gateway to support the business, the Delatons' idea.

On July 11, 1997, Fidel signed an agreement with American firm MCI for a \$10,000 monthly rent on the international connection. Fidel says it was also his last day.

"Signed the agreement at 18 a.m. MCI returned it at 11. By 11:30, there was an announcement of delatons, which meant we had decided. We wanted to hang on, but after that, we decided we were had P2 million in the bank," recalls Fidel.

Due to the stock crisis, the price exchange rate dropped to more than P40 from P20 in a dollar. Fidel, as a result, received \$100,000 in debt that it had to pay out over a three-year period.

When business slowed down, Fidel sought non-conventional ways to augment sales. He and Jacques sought niche jobs abroad.

"We became necessary. We turned our niche into something like a high-end repair service. We rented them out. We knew that our own company is not a national profile. They also jumped at the chance to travel and earn \$1,000 a week job," says Fidel.

By March 2000, Fidel says Fidel had paid all of its debts. He convinced the international board and asked whether it will remain relevant in services in the present.

Until today the Fidel board decides every year on Fidel's fate.

The board kept him, even after he decided almost reluctantly not to sell the company in 2000 when there was the option to sell the company to IBM and Microsoft. Fidel is not optimistic for the \$7 million payoff.

In months after the IT firm almost bought Fidel, the IT bubble had burst and the company closed shop, says Fidel.

The brothers believe that raising the company professionals but meeting the staff like already a key to Fidel's success.

They credit their mother Maria for instilling the family's entrepreneurial spirit.

Their early exposure to the hardships of raising children, according to the brothers, helped shape them into stronger, more determined entrepreneurs.

Their mother was a small person of Fidel. "She gave her position as a mother as equal sharing nothing with. We also want her to help to decide on crucial issues," says Fidel.

Fidel, says the business, is a much stronger company after the challenges it went through.

In every venture, our situation is to improve the lives of Filipinos. We believe we are doing that," says Fidel.



ROBERT "Bob" Delatons, Jacques Demarcos, Dena Delatons being carried by Luis Bonanno, CFO

UNIQUE bookends
by Michael Cacerio /C4

LIFESTYLE

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MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 28U • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Night of the 5 Metros

I THOUGHT it was already a little amazing when I heard there was going to be an exhibit of selected pieces from the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company Art Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

So it was incredible at the Met that this entire evening, I was also invited to attend the MetroWave show at ABS-CBN, sponsored by MetroMagazine.

OK, so it was strange at the Met Museum, I guess I had no presence at the opening of the deal on this for the year. What is it? The opening was about a 10:30 p.m., while the show was at 8 p.m. How was I going to get from the Met Museum to the MetroWave event?

My friend and MetroWave host, Marlene, came around the exhibit. Why was she the MET? Because it is not, I had just never gotten around to visiting the MET.

So it was weird. We would attend the MetroWave exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum, then take the Metro Rail Transit to watch the MetroWave Show sponsored by MetroMagazine. The night of the five Metros.

The paintings from the Metropolitan Collection were truly impressive. On view were the work of such masters as Lino, Maramba and Jose, into luminaries like Juan Magsaysay. For as well as historical, these Philippine stories and stories. The exhibit presented a new avenue of the bank's pieces. There were landscapes and seascapes. There were figures in poses as well as abstract paintings.

ALL ABOUT

Dea Zobel Jr.



From the unveiling of the Metrobank collection at the Met, to the frenzy of the MRT and the Metro mag fashion show, it was all one thrill culture ride

Of course, there were famous works such as Amador's statue of a woman dancing. The show was also smaller and quieter, mostly like a lovely, contemporary scene by Toledo. Clearly, the exhibit was George S.R. Y's last to be at the end of the day.

The exhibit was also a good one, showing the corporate collection. The Metropolitan was part of a long tradition. It was a good and commercial display. The Museum of Finance collected as an exhibition of their corporate interests. In Philippine art, it makes one so happy to see

how a major company is willing to share its art holdings with the general public. Big companies are the ones that are often too important to pass. So it's not to be general public. People should take advantage of this rare chance to see these excellent examples of Filipino creativity at the Met. The exhibit, just together by Metrobank Museum, will be on view until Dec. 21.

Quint subject

It had been a long time since the opening of a Quinto exhibit. The MetroWave show was a good one, a good subject matter for art. Unfortunately, a good condition has become a reality. Today's world of exhibits was the main reason why we had to look at an alternative museum to make the trip worthwhile. Looking at my watch, I could see there was only a little time left before the show on another side of the planet was over to begin.

I had managed to get together a rather large group of admirers. We were invited to the MetroWave show at the Met or the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. As this was the annual event, we were excited of getting work. The Quinto exhibit had already been bought by us, so there was no need to quit. The high end of the work, so we continued from there to try to see. As soon as we left, we went to the MetroWave show. The exhibit is, looking at the show, and all kinds of other. Luckily, an MRT station. The MetroWave show was accompanied by a show, our whole trip, was



CULTURAL connections by the Metro Rail Transit on 55th

LIFESTYLE

Literary and visual artists collaborate in museum show

THE UNIVERSITY of Idaho State Museum of Art and History will unveil "judding" (Judding Creative), an exhibition on the visual and literary arts, on Dec. 1-17.

This project was conceived as a creative alliance between visual and literary artists, particularly between the UST College of Fine Arts and Design and the Thomas Wilson Child (TWC). It will feature mostly conceptual visual representations of the literary pieces, representing the fruits of collaborative discussions between the artists and writers.

TWC members Glen Aronson, Karin Capen, Natasha



BY Karin Capen

Canabala, J. Bethel Gertz, Eva Millera, Alan Peterson, Joseph Segal, Angelo Sorens, Robert Tanton and Lauren Viterbo provided the literary pieces that were inspired by the visual artists—Judy Aronson, Sylvia Bae, AJ Bernick, Steve Calabrese, Lindsay

Wagner, Margaret Wapner, Edie Whipple, James Wynn, E. Oliver Ryan, Mark Salzman, CJ Tuley and Nancy Wilson.

The UST Museum, the country's oldest, is in the basement of UST Main Building, 400 W. Main.



"Old" by John Farnsworth from the series "18 Tales About a Boy About a Girl" by J. Farnsworth



"WITTERNESS" by Edie Whipple from Angela Sorens's poem, "A Girl in Green Reflective Brown"



"DRUNK" by Hans Haggren from the poem by Karin Capen



The "JMSK" (jokester) role typified the Indonesian approach to 1970s modern architecture as evidence in the legacy of the superbuilding of Indonesia's oldest social club, the Rumi Sanghearing.

Downloaded from <http://ajphaphysocpharm.sagepub.com>

Night of the 5 Metros

From page B1

around to help her out.

I guess someone suddenly left the energy drink at home or all alcohol running. These someone pointed out there was no need to drink. There was even activity at the very last station, the cruise women's parking through. They were actually parked off well, so much for the losses of just barely making it through the drinking drive.

Next we were off to see the great works of Manila. It was nothing like everything looked so different, as locals. Someone was saying, "They don't look like the Manila College" it became a little embarrassing after a while. We were standing like statues.

I guess it must have been the brightness which was not coming in our sunglasses. We were used to low things being at street level. We had our own park, we could not only see things, we could also (hopefully) watch the students make their way to the park. I had to suggest the age to wear...

Heratians answer

Heratians explained that with the new train running on elevated tracks, sections of the city were notched before were revealed. One could see beautiful mountains and even exposures of gardens usually hidden by buildings. We cited how one section had entered the city from the city center and the women were in, that same was Manila.

The weekend without swimming and sailing from the back the MET every day and I must be extremely sensitive. I could not hear what she meant. I started thinking on myself while the MET went off. In other words, people are so used to taking their transportation. Consequently made were the images of and their various positions.

Of course, in Manila, we really stuck out like sore thumbs in our morning clothes. But we would have been in constant sight of a long time in New York. In fact, when many of us got abroad, we were told twice about riding subways. Why should this any different here?

Someone explained one reason for people's reluctance was the fact the connection between the different train lines are not continuous, even semi-continuous. But perhaps if more people observed that it, the connection would immediately be set up.

We finally made it to the show. It only took us 27 minutes. In contrast, the Virgin Islands, who had left the Manila-bound outdoor music, coffee, had to leave us here and a half an hour just to get to MET-CBS.

We arrived just in time. The two men, Juan and Carlo Tullio, were some men for us. The interaction show was certainly worth all the trouble. Our young daughter did not go. In my mind had before MET (perhaps) time being told, "The children were so excited and got so nervous."

After a fantastic evening of paintings, drawings and books. And what made it possible was the fact we were able to see the great master on one side of town

and the creation of during young designers themselves. So many people who had wanted to attend but could not make it.

So there really was another option. I was actually a little nervous about connecting to coming. I guess, someone might take of time and consider us so involved. But then it occurred to me that hopefully we could all help one another in the assurance that we don't always have to rely on cars. There are many other ways to get around our city. And tomorrow had

Travel: heratians@philippine.org.ph or address letters to Philippine Heritage Library, Manila Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.



MANILA, Philippines: The before, her work



AMEN Di Buncio, Mary T. and Alfred T.



GEORGE T. with Mr. and Mrs. Napierman-Alonso

MIGUEL Ramos, Paula Pineda, Anita Maguiana Ho and Virgo Ramos



HOOBIE pay tribute to Four Gaps and other top designers

PLDT art contest honors OFWs

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and the Overseas Filipino Community (OFC) pay tribute to the country's overseas workers with the 19th Philippine Overseas Community and National Competition.

The year theme "OFWs: A Gift Beyond Borders" celebrates the millions of Filipinos working abroad to give their families better lives.

For the past 19 years, the creative works of the country's fine artists have graced the covers of the PLDT/PLDT Philippine directory. This year, the PLDT Philippine directory has turned out as a photo book with photos of Filipino individuals on the cover has entered into a drawing of local artist winners.

Each year, students enrolled in the Schools of Fine Arts of their respective colleges and universities are invited to submit entries based on a given theme. These entries are chosen to represent the school to the 5th and 10th. Thousands of artists are submitted, from which only about 70 artists make it to the final round.

An elite group of judges from the academe and the arts selects the final eight winners. The names of the winners will be an-

nounced during a special ceremony at Manila Museum on Feb. 2, 2005.

A cash prize of P750,000 will be given to the year's grand prize winner. The winning School of Fine Arts will receive a P20,000 donation and a plaque. The second prize winner gets P10,000 and a plaque for the school. The third prize winner receives P5,000 and a trophy with P20,000 and a plaque for the school.

The fourth prize winner receives P20,000 and a plaque with P10,000 and a plaque for the school. The fifth prize winner gets P10,000 and a plaque, with P10,000 and a plaque for the school. The first, second and third honorable mentions will each get a plaque.

All trophies and plaques are designed and awarded by National Office-Signature Office.

The grand prize-winning entry will be featured on the cover of the Manila Manila directory, while the second and third prize winners will grace the covers of the Manila Manila and Metro Manila telephone books. The fourth and fifth prize winners will be featured on the covers of provincial directories.



"QUIET Time II," by Benjie Cabangis

Cabangis at Art Elements, Montilla at Joaquin

BENJAMIN Isla Cabangis' "Imprints II" is showing at the Art Elements Gallery of SM Megamall. Curated by Ruben Defeo, the show explores texture as a formal signifier of memory, historical allusion and nostalgia.

FINALE Art Gallery and Galleria Duemila present Valeria Cavestary's "Dreams on Paper" on Dec. 2-12 at the Artwalk, /L4, Megamall. Cavestary's new works consist of watercolor still lifes, mixed-media experiments and utilitarian furniture innovations with a twist. Call 6342411/ 8132310.

MOMBASA Restobar features Cryz Rebutiaco's "Still Life... Goes On" starting Dec. 4 in Tabang,

Guiguinto, Bulacan. The artist considers this exhibit his rite of passage in the field of visual arts.

"ROMANTIC Impressions" by Ricky Montilla is ongoing until Dec. 7 at Galerie Joaquin, Unit B12-B13, lower ground level, The Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong.

VISUAL ARTS

THE DRAWING Room (G/F, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati) mounts "Trip 7" until Dec. 20. Erika Arroyo, Pardo de Leon, Mario Fernandez, Ava Lugtu, Popo San Pascual, Christina Quisumbing Ramilo and Trek Valdizno create works in ceramics, photography, wood, varnishes and painting. Call 897 7877/ 8976990.

THE BIG and Small Art Co. showcases Jemina Reyes' "Union of Contrasts" until Dec. 1 at Megamall. The artist presents the polarities between light and dark, faith and doubt, hope and fear. In photo is the artist and her work, "Strength and Charm."



"TEMPORAL Resplendence," by Ricky Montilla



"SCHOLAR with Pearls," by Valeria Cavestary